

Bible Reading Class – The Book of Zechariah
August September 28, 2023 – Chapters 11 and 12
Chapter 11

1. This chapter is somewhat difficult to interpret; there's a variety of interpretations given by various writers of its meaning. Some believe that Zechariah is describing the invasion of _____ by the Romans in A. D. ____ destroying the _____ as predicted by Jesus (cf. **Matt. 24:1-2; Mk. 13:1-2; Lk. 21:5-6**). Others believe that it describes simply the fall of _____, the _____ entrance to the land of Jehovah's people, and the way through which the _____ had come.
2. James Coffman believes **verses 1-2** refer to the Jewish _____ being destroyed; the temple's _____ were made of _____ from Lebanon that _____ had shipped to construct the _____ temple.
3. The destruction of the _____ and the fall of the city of _____ is what some scholars believe Zechariah is predicting; this sounds very plausible, but let's not be dogmatic in teaching this thought.
4. Zechariah is also describing the disaster to fall upon the false _____ of Israel "**for their glory is in _____**" (**v. 3**); these shepherds are going to fall because of their _____ (**arrogance**).
5. **Verse 4** introduces the main character of this section who is _____; God commissions Zechariah to "**_____ the _____ for slaughter.**" [**Zechariah is described as a type of _____; he is the good _____ representing the Good _____, Jesus Christ.**]
6. This section is an _____ (**An allegory is a story in which the characters and/or events are symbols representing other events, or people.**) The shepherds of **verse 5** represent the _____ (**leaders**) who had the responsibility for caring for the people of God.
7. According to **verse 5**, the shepherds had allowed God's people to be taken advantage of by others for _____; these shepherds had become _____ themselves at the _____ of the people.
8. God is going to permit these shepherds to _____ and He is not going to do anything to _____ (**help**) His people who _____ followed these shepherds;

so, in **verse 7**, Zechariah did what He was commissioned to do; he “_____ **the flock for slaughter**;” the good shepherd took up two _____ to tend God’s flock.

9. The shepherd named one staff “_____” and another “_____.” **Beauty** refers to God’s **Favor (Kindness)** and **Bonds** refer to **Union (Unity)**.

10. In **verse 8**, the good _____ dismissed the three wicked _____; some believe the three shepherds refer to the following three religious’ groups of the Jews [_____, _____, and **Herodians (Essences)**] – **a sect of Hellenistic Jews who supported the rule of Herod and his descendants.**]

11. The people refuse to listen to the good _____, Zechariah; thus, in **verse 9**, the good shepherd _____, and he told the flock, “**I will not _____ you. Let what is _____ die, and what is _____ perish. Let those that are left eat each other’s flesh.**” Coffman says this saying refers to two key passages or events related to Jesus:

- 1) the first has to do with Jesus _____ over the city of _____ because of the failure to listen to the _____ of the prophets (**Lk. 13:33-35**), and
- 2) the second has to do with Jesus’ _____ of the destruction of the city of _____ and the _____ (**Lk. 21:5-6**).

12. The breaking of the staff called _____ into two pieces is believed by some to be the termination of God’s _____ with the fleshly _____; the breaking of the staff had nothing to do with God’s promise to Abraham, but open the door for it – God, with the _____ of the _____, is going to bless all the families on the earth.

13. The good shepherd asks for his _____ for the work of _____ the people; the people gave him _____ pieces of _____ for his work. The people had rejected the true and caring _____, Zechariah; this refers to Jesus is going to be _____ and He will be _____ by a friend for _____ pieces of silver (cf. **Matt. 27:9**). [**Jesus will be the true and caring shepherd for God’s people; yet He will be rejected just like Zechariah was rejected.**]

14. In **verse 13**, God instructed the _____ to throw the money to _____; by doing so, he would get rid of the money without _____ from it. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver; he later changed his mind and threw the money at the feet of the _____ in the temple. They used it to buy “**the _____ Field**” in which Judas was buried (**Matt. 27:3-10; Acts 1:16-20**). **Matthew in Matthew 27:9** states “**Then was fulfilled what was spoken Jeremiah the prophet...**”; this was not spoken by the prophet Jeremiah but the prophet Zechariah. Some believe that the most likely answer as to why Matthew says Jeremiah rather than Zechariah is found in the structure of the Hebrew Bible. The Hebrew Bible is divided into three sections called the Law, Writings, and the Prophets. Jesus refers to these divisions in **Luke 24:44**. The collection of the Prophets began with the book of Jeremiah. The scrolls were sometimes referred to by the name of the first book, which in the case of the Prophets would be Jeremiah. So, when Matthew says that “**Jeremiah says**” he means that the prophecy was found in the “**Jeremiah Scroll**.”

15. In **verse 14**, to indicate the finality of his resignation, the shepherd took the _____ staff – _____ (**Unity**) – and cut it into pieces to signify the ending of the _____ between **Judah (the Southern kingdom)** and **Israel (the Northern kingdom)**. God had removed His _____ from them; so, with the breaking of the two staffs, God’s people will no longer be in a _____ relationship with Him and He had dissolved the _____ that had held His people together. [**The sheep’s rejection of their shepherd destroyed their relationship with God (represented by the staff “Favor”) and their relationship with one another (represented by the staff “Unity”).**]

16. The rejection of the good and caring _____ led to the people giving way to the uncaring and unloving _____.

17. The “_____ **shepherd**” is also described as “_____ **shepherd**” (**v. 17**) because he does not care for the sheep, but he uses and abuses the sheep for his benefit; some believe the identity of the “**foolish shepherd**” is likely _____ who ruled over Palestine without truly caring for God’s people.

18. This “_____ **shepherd**” will _____ the sheep; he should have protected the people, but he didn’t; thus, he will be left crippled by a _____, his arm will _____, and his right eye will go _____ – the point is that wicked leaders will be punished.

Chapter 12

1. **Chapters 12-14** contain Zechariah’s second _____ (**oracle or revelation**) concerning _____; the certainty of what the prophet is going to declare being _____ is found in the following three facts about _____:

- 1) He _____ the heavens,
- 2) He laid the _____ of the earth, and
- 3) He formed and put the _____ of man within him.

2. **Verses 2-3** contain two _____ of God’s _____ of Israel. In the **first metaphor**, Jerusalem will be _____ by other _____, but will be able to _____; the city will be like a _____ that causes the nations to _____ – this implying an image of a large _____ of _____ that will cause the nations to _____ as if they will be _____. Both Jerusalem and Judah will be attacked by their enemies, but God is going to _____ them.

3. This **second metaphor** used by the prophet is to express the idea that Jerusalem’s enemies will be unable to _____ the city; Jerusalem will be like a _____ that will severely _____ anyone who tries to _____ it (**v. 3**).

4. In this section, the statement “**in that day**” is mentioned _____ times; each time it is used, it refers to the time when the _____ is under consideration, that is, the time when the Kingdom of Christ will be established.

5. Zechariah is predicting those who will attempt to destroy _____ or prevent the _____ of the _____ will be defeated; those who oppose the truth will be as _____ running throughout the _____ age with _____ of warfare. These horsemen, God is going to strike with _____, and they shall be _____.

6. “**In that day**” based on **verses 6-7**, when the _____ (**church**) is established, and the wicked will attack it; the “_____ **of Judah**” (**chieftains of Judah**) will

be a destructive force like “a _____ **in the woodpile**” or a flaming _____ to destroy the wicked with the word of God.

7. In **verses 8-9**, “**in that day**” when the _____ is attacked by her _____, God’s people will have the strength of _____ [**David was a mighty _____ for God, and by the strength of _____, he defeated _____ and other foes; those who maintain to their _____ in their challenging times, will be able to _____ the enemies of the _____ or God’s _____.**]

8. “**In that day**” when nations wage _____ against the church those who have been recipients God’s “_____” (**the forgiveness of their sins**) because God is going to _____ His beloved _____ to make forgiveness _____ for all.

9. John quotes **verse 10** in **John** _____; the Roman soldiers will _____ the _____ of Jesus to make sure he was _____ on the cross. The heart of the second metaphor is that the true people of God will be _____ to mourn when Christ is _____.

10. **Verse 10** allows us to see the _____ of Jesus; God says “_____ **whom they pierced**” refers to _____. All families small and great will _____ the _____ of Jesus upon the cross.